

HOUSE No. 2805

By Mr. Atsalis of Barnstable, petition of Demetrius J. Atsalis relative to videotaping testimony of children in the custody of the Department of Social Services. Children and Families.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO FOSTER CHILDREN
BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 The Secretary of the Executive Office of Health and Human
2 Services shall choose an individual or group involved in child
3 advocacy, independent of the DSS, to prepare and make available
4 to each child entering the custody of the department a pamphlet
5 entitled "My Rights In Foster Care" which shall detail the child's
6 rights in the following areas: legal proceedings, foster care place-
7 ment, visitation with siblings and other family, health care, educa-
8 tion and complaint filing. Said pamphlet shall be prepared in
9 consultation with the National Center For Youth Law and the
10 Children's Administration.